

THE
LOGICAL SOLUTION
OF THE
LIQUOR TRAFFIC
PROBLEM



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The unexpected demand for this little pamphlet has made it necessary to print a second and larger edition for the purpose of supplying Churches, Sunday Schools, Temperance Organizations, *free of charge.* Special arrangements have been made for printing and distributing the pamphlet at the low cost of \$10.00 per thousand, and contributions to aid in this work will be gratefully acknowledged by the author. Address 34 South 16th Street, Philadelphia.

"The Supreme Ruler has infinite reserves of might which are hidden from human view; therefore let good men be incited to work, doubting men inspired with hope, and wicked men filled with fear."—Anon.

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From the earliest ages of history man has used alcohol. His first written language, recorded in crude hieroglyphics, thousands of years before Moses, pictures a story of revelry and debauch through strong drink. And the history of each succeeding age tells the same sad story. All nations have recognized the demoralizing influence of intemperance and have tried in various ways to counteract its effects. All the great reformers of history and the builders of the world's great religions have attempted to suppress drunkenness.

The many methods employed may be grouped under two general heads, one usually termed *moral suasion* and the other *legal restriction*; both methods have failed to do more than temporarily moderate the evil or confine its malign influence within locally defined limits.

Father Matthew, John B. Gough and Francis Murphy, by moral suasion, induced tens of thousands to reform for a time, but saw nearly 90 per cent. of their converts lapse again into drunkenness.

Regulation of rum selling by legislation is simply placing the government's seal of approval upon a moral evil.

Drunkenness is a crime against humanity and the cause which produces it is an outlaw against society and a disgrace to Chris-

tian civilization—such is the verdict of the world's most eminent leaders of thought and action, of the most advanced medical science and of the highest tribunals of legal authority among civilized nations.

Two hundred years ago, Chief Justice Hale of England declared that "a catalog of all crimes might be divided into five parts and four of these were the product of drunkenness."

Gladstone saw his country destroy 80 million bushels of selected grain in the manufacture of beer in one year, during which time a million and a half of her subjects in India perished of starvation, and her wage-earners were taxed nearly a thousand million dollars to support paupers and punish criminals, 80 per cent. of whom were officially recorded as the direct product of intemperance, and the great statesman made this solemn accusation against the social conditions of his times: "The evil arising from intemperance in England exceeds that of the three great plagues of the world, War, Pestilence and Famine."

In our own country conditions are hardly less intolerable to Christian civilization. We boast of the highest type of civil and religious freedom in the world; of "a government of the people, by the people, for the people," which guarantees to every law-abiding citizen protection of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." A fundamental principle of our civil liberty, set forth under constitutional enactment provides that no citizen may exercise his individual liberty to the injury, or even a risk of injury to his fellow-citizen or to the general public. Yet in direct violation of this basic law of justice, our National Government controlling the welfare of almost a hundred million people gives to *one-tenth of one per cent.* of this vast population the special privilege of conducting a business which overwhelms the other ninety odd millions of law-abiding people with an immeasurable burden of misery, poverty, insanity and crime and which each year dooms more than 80,000 human beings to a wasted life, premature death and a drunkard's grave.

What a picture of political economy! The Federal Government at Washington receiving less than 200 million dollars as a bribe (called by courtesy a revenue) for legalizing a business which costs the wage-earners of the nation a drink bill of a thousand millions!

Twenty years ago the Supreme Court of the United States rendered the following clear and emphatic decision against rum traffic: "There is no inherent right in a citizen to sell intoxicating liquors at retail; it is not a privilege of a citizen of the State, or of a citizen of the United States."

Another decision of the Court: "No legislature can barter

away public health or public morals.... Government is organized with a view to their preservation and cannot divest itself of the power to provide for them." In spite of these distinct unmistakable declarations of highest legal authority, the same vicious agency which has despoiled the people has dared to pervert the ends of justice by corrupting State legislation and even neutralizing the integrity of our civil courts.

The same exalted tribunal of our civil liberties sends a hungry man to jail for stealing a loaf of bread, and hands to the autocrat of the saloon a license to conduct a business which, according to the evidence of these very court officers, turns out as its finished product, more than 90 per cent. of all homicides, 82 per cent. of all other crimes, 64 per cent. of poverty and pauperism and over 40 per cent. of the rapidly increasing volume of insanity in our land. What a travesty of justice! To sanction and protect by the power of our courts a monster of wickedness, which has pervaded every portion of our country and debauched every phase of the political, social and moral life of our nation. An evil, not simply of local or temporary moment, but a universal, persistent blight, withering the strength of the present generation and waiting to destroy the children's children, born in moral degeneracy,—innocent victims of scrofula, rickets, convulsions, eczema, meningitis, imbecility—handicapped for life or fated to an early death.

Latest medical authorities assure us that hundreds of thousands of helpless little ones are born to suffer and die in childhood or live only to become degenerates, and criminals, because and *only* because of the intemperate habits of parents. What a commentary on Christian civilization!

The American people are justly concerned about the wasting of our national resources, and the necessity of conservating our material wealth in water-power, coal, lumber and food products, and yet seem utterly indifferent to the dissipation and destruction of wealth a thousand times more valuable—the wasting of our nation's strength and moral integrity and the destruction of human lives whose value cannot be computed in figures.

But the day of deliverance will come; perhaps sooner than many think. Progress is the watchword of the world and Humanitarianism is the countersign of civilization. The greatest good to the greatest number is the present day standard of civil liberty and universal justice throughout the world.

The whole world now recognizes man's universal brotherhood, and humanity in general is now conscious of each man's *personal* responsibility for the welfare of his fellow.

The mighty wave of unrest now sweeping over our entire

country from Maine to Mexico, designated as "insurgency" or "new nationalism," is only the awakening of the people's moral consciousness to remind them of the sacredness of human rights and the responsibility of *each* for the general welfare of all. It is the same spirit of right which shattered the power of military and social feudalism in the old world, which is shaking the foundations of political and industrial feudalism of the new.

The same spirit which 700 years ago wrested the Magna Charta from a despotic King is to-day demanding a "square deal" for every industrious law-abiding man under our country's flag. It is the same elemental and eternal spirit of *right* which, fired by a holy passion, will fight a wrong to the death. Guided by this spirit the path of human progress has been ever upward. The "*uplift*" of humanity has been ever constant, universal and irresistible. No era of history was ever so pregnant with possibilities for mankind's welfare, as that in which we are now living—and no nation of earth so favorably established as our own for the rapid fulfillment of what is promised. As America goes, so the world, for the social and moral welfare of the race. Or as an eminent English writer has recently expressed it: "Ten years of American history means half a century of European progress."

Our ship of State has sailed through many dangerous seas, during the past generation. We have seen one human unit, actuated by avarice and aided by artificial conditions, heap up hundreds of millions of unearned dollars, while hundreds of thousands of other human units of equal or greater intellectual and moral strength have been left to fruitless toil, crushing poverty and degrading conditions of life. We have seen giant corporations monopolize and congest a large part of the current wealth of our nation within their greedy grasp, while more than *four million families* of honest, industrious wage-earners are compelled to live on less than *four hundred dollars per year*. We have seen millionaire prodigals squander in profligate pleasure a sum greater than the entire currency of the Chinese Empire with a population of 450 millions. We have seen "wickedness in high places," bribery, corruption and graft in municipal, legislative and even judicial halls.

All these and a hundred other evils have impaired our welfare as a nation, but the moral integrity of the masses of our people has never been subverted.

When one arrogant rich man may mock at the misfortune of his fellows, ten thousand other rich men stand ready to rebuke the insult.

When one oppressed wage-earner, made desperate by economic

conditions, seeks to solve the problem by violence, and would unfasten the knot by cutting the rope, a hundred thousand intelligent toilers are ready to restrain the hand and patiently work out the solution of their social and industrial betterment. The average American citizen is intelligent and he is honest. He knows that each individual is only an integral part of the whole community—that what benefits each one is a blessing to every one and that which hurts one, harms all. Perhaps never in our national history have the enlightened people been more alive to the questions effecting their general welfare. What is termed the public conscience has been aroused and a general spirit of reform seems to prevail throughout the entire country, demanding the overthrow of evils which because of ignorance or indifference have been tolerated and even protected by vicious laws. Strongholds of corrupt political power that were deemed impregnable have fallen like a house of cards. Insurance and commercial grafters have been compelled to disgorge. Legislative bodies have been constrained to repudiate political bosses and rescind pernicious laws. Popular literature of the day has been enlisted as a medium to furnish a comprehensive discussion of economic affairs in which all the people are vitally interested.

There is an ebb and flow in the tide of popular sentiment which threatens to submerge many of the old landmarks of other times. There is a powerful undercurrent of intense thought upon the question of uplifting the masses to a yet higher plane—and a determined purpose to overthrow and cast aside every obstacle in the upward path of human enlightenment and progress.

The people have learned during the past generation many hard lessons in political and social economy and are ready now to give a practical demonstration of what they know.

They know that the social and political welfare of the nation depends upon good government—that all government derives its power through *law* ordained by the will of the people and since that which is created cannot be greater than the agency which created it, no law may be regarded with superstitious reverence as of more authority than the sovereign will of the people.

This untrammeled power of the people's will to change and modify economic conditions is the very salvation of civilization. Upon this bulwark the social, political and moral enfranchisement of mankind is founded. No power on earth can withstand the determined purpose of a free people.

Fifteen times that power has been exercised to amend the Constitution of our civil liberties and each time to enlarge the horizon of our national power for right or to eliminate a national cause of wrong.

To this supreme test, sooner or later, must be subjected every institution, corporation and influence affecting the sacred rights of a free people. Special privilege cannot withstand enlightened progress.

It is not improbable that the next generation will see in our land a vast population of 200 millions—half of the civilized portion of the human race—speaking one language—loyal to one flag—the amalgamated product of Anglo-Saxon, German, French, Italian, Celt, Scandinavian and a score of other nationalities—bound together by the transforming power of civil liberty—cemented by the bonds of harmony, equality and mutual rights. A vast Republic whose power for good shall extend to the ends of the earth to uplift and regenerate the entire human race. Before this sublime tribunal of an enlightened civilization, every cause of human wrong will be summoned to appear for trial, and every selfish agency of evil to even one man will be doomed as an enemy to all men: before this Supreme Court of Moral Consciousness—*drunkenness*—the greatest monster of evil in the world, will stand convicted. There will be no sophistical verbiage about “regulating” the amount of misery and poverty which mankind *must* suffer, because it is sanctioned by “precedents” of antiquated statutes, no quibbling about “sumptuary laws” and “inalienable rights,” no absurd disputations about the Federal Government interfering with so-called “police powers” of the States, no contradictory laws regarding so-called “license;” no illogical makeshift which compels the law to protect a thing as right on one side of an imaginary line and punish it as a crime on the other side.

A thing which is morally wrong can never be legally right and all the license tags and court seals in the world cannot change the character of that which is evil *per se*.

An elemental evil is universally and eternally an evil. The sale of alcoholic liquors as a beverage is either right or wrong. If it is right, its sale should be as free and unrestrained as the sale of tea or sugar and not monopolized by a few men under an exorbitant license fee for their peculiar and personal profit. If, on the other hand, alcohol under its different forms is always an insidious, narcotic poison and dangerous to the public good, then its sale should be governed by the same conditions as now surround the sale of arsenic, strychnia, cocaine, and other deadly drugs. All laws which are intended to regulate an *evil*, must necessarily ignore the moral principle involved and are therefore without the proper respect of the people, and no law can be successfully operative without this element.

A law to be effective must have the moral support of a majority of the people for whom it is ordained. If the public conscience is not in accord with a prohibitory measure, then the measure must prove inadequate to prohibit, but wherever and whenever an enlightened people, with conscience awakened have demanded obedience to the dictates of intelligent, progressive principles in the problems of social and political evolution, there we have seen the mightiest strides of human progress, sometimes through the throes of uprooting revolution, more often through the silent, imperceptible crystallization of sentiment and purpose, gradually yet inevitably transforming economic forces and conditions until the moral consciousness of a united people shall willingly repudiate those things which have been detrimental to the public good and adopt immediate and strenuous measures of reform.

Because of the inconsistency of all laws regulating and therefore giving legal sanction to a moral evil, such laws have been used only as a matter of necessity in the great reform movements of temperance. At best they can be only stepping stones by which the people may be gradually led up to a point of vision where they may see the awful work of destruction and death which has followed the demon of strong drink. That viewpoint is now being rapidly approached by the American people and in no far distant day shall be crushed forever the most demoralizing wrong ever tolerated by an intelligent people. Already we may see the dawning of that day. Already the powers of evil have seen the handwriting on the wall, and their death warrant has been signed.

Vast accumulations of perverted wealth have been poured out by the "liquor interests" to delay the "day of wrath." All the powers of debauched politicians have been enlisted in the efforts to longer deceive the people and "blind" their judgment; but in vain.

The death warrant of the saloon as a legalized institution is sealed.

It is an institution sustained by "blood money" of the people. An institution whose only business is to debauch; which fills jails and poor houses, recruits the vast army of criminals, robs the home of innocent girlhood to supply dance halls and houses of ill fame; which corrupts halls of legislature and contaminates the chambers of justice; which defiles churches, wrecks homes, destroys happiness, poisons love, brutalizes manhood, pollutes womanhood, crushes out childhood and fixes upon the unborn babe a handicap for life. The saloon must go, and go forever!

There is only one logical solution of the problem. The evil

is national—its prohibition must be national. No single commonwealth can effectively punish or prohibit a crime which is protected as a legitimate business in another commonwealth. It is contrary to common sense to suppose that the local courts of one state may control an evil which is sanctioned by the courts of another state and bears the endorsement of the Federal Government.

If prohibition is right in one state, the non-existence of prohibition in every other state is wrong.

A nation-wide pestilence demands a nation-wide quarantine. Federal prohibition of the liquor traffic is logical and inevitable.

There are thousands of good men in our land who are not yet ready to adopt a plan which, to them, would seem too radical or impracticable. They seem to forget many other great evils which have passed into history. Piracy, lotteries, gambling, witchcraft, and human slavery were all, in their day, recognized by our Government as worthy of protection or as necessary evils. Thousands of earnest Christian ministers and honest jurists found sanction for the worst of these evils in the Word of God. We smile to-day at the folly and inconsistency of our ancestors, but our children will laugh at the blind perversity of some who now seem wise in their day and generation and yet can find apologies for the greatest monster of evil that ever cursed mankind.

Not a great while longer will an intelligent, though long-suffering, people tolerate this immeasurable waste of wealth and life. The tears of a million broken-hearted wives and mothers, the blood of ten million innocent children will crystallize into the solid votes of a regenerated manhood and from every state in the Union will come the demand for the national prohibition of a national crime. More than fifty per cent. of our population are now living in *no-saloon* territory; forty out of forty-eight states are under the banner of temperance. Application to our National Congress by the legislatures of *two-thirds* of these states, or a vote of *two-thirds* of the representatives of these states in both houses of Congress, will secure an amendment to the Constitution, which shall forever prohibit the manufacture, importation, exportation, transportation and sale of all alcoholic liquors as a beverage.

When the entire mass of awful evidence shall have been heard and fully comprehended by ninety million American freemen, a mighty voice will be heard in the halls of Congress demanding that the evil of *drunkenness* shall be *forever banished from our land*; and *no power on earth shall dare challenge that demand*.

“FOR GOD AND OUR COUNTRY”

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